



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
152 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0152



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. CANTARA  
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW  
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING  
JANUARY 3, 2007  
9:30 AM  
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Members: Steve Leach, Chair; Wayne Werts, Chair-elect; Bob Ashby, Alan Azzara, Tim Beals, Oden Cassidy, Joe Conley, Peter DiPietrantonio, Richard Doughty, Ron Jones, Penny Kneeland, Paul Knowlton, Roy Woods, Steve Diaz (ex officio)

Staff: Drexell White, Dawn Kinney, Scott Smith, Ben Woodard, Alan Leo

Attorney General's Office: Laura Yustak Smith, AAG

Regional Coordinators: Donnie Carroll, Steve Corbin, Joanne LeBrun, Rick Petrie,

Guests: Dan Batsie, Peter Bragdon

1. Introductions – Board members and guests identified themselves and were welcomed by the chair.
2. Approval of the December 6, 2006, Board meeting minutes. Tim Beals noted that “November” was incorrectly spelled in §2 on page 1, and “Montejo” was incorrectly spelled in the Higbie Consent Agreement motion on page 3.

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of the December 6, 2006, Board meeting as amended with corrections to the spelling of “November” on page one and “Montejo” on page three (Woods; second by Cassidy). Unanimous**

3. New Business
  - a. Committee Reports
    - Operations Team – Steve Corbin reported that:
      - Regional Offices have been requested to return all National Registry test booklets due to the January 1, 2007 implementation of Computer Based Testing.
      - Discussion was held about frequency coordination and the difficulties experienced in the Tri-County Region with obtaining new frequencies. Joanne LeBrun will work with Senator Collins office to try and resolve the issues.
      - Discussion took place about the regional airway forms and problems with reporting compliance.

- There are 5 services now certified under the new Paramedic Inter-Facility Transfer (PIFT) program.
- All FY06 AED Reporting Spreadsheets are due at Maine EMS.
- Discussion took place about LR#1800 – legislation submitted by some of the regional offices designed to provide dedicated funding to the regions.
- Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Training is scheduled for Aroostook County in February 2007
- Governor Baldacci has nominated Department of Public Safety Commissioner Michael Cantara for a District Court judgeship.
- Jay Bradshaw reported on the status of the Maine EMS departmental legislation. The three bills being tracked concern regions, Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) and reinstatement of criminal background checks for renewal applicants.
  - Education Committee – Dan Batsie reported that:
    - The Education Committee is gearing down from the PIFT development project.
    - The committee will be bringing forth recommendations on committee composition and membership.
    - Discussion continues on program accreditation, continuing education models and curriculae
  - Exam Committee – Drexell reported that
    - The committee reviewed Intermediate and Paramedic skill sheets to ensure currency. He noted that the Paramedic skills sheets are being reviewed because there will be Paramedic level exams before Maine adopts the National Registry Paramedic Exam in July 2007.
    - Computer based Testing (CBT) for First responders and EMT-Basics began on January 1, 2007. Current sites for CBT in Maine include Westbrook, Augusta, Fairfield, Bangor and Presque Isle.
    - The University of Maine at Machias will be unable to be a CBT test site. Drexell reported that he has worked with Rick Petrie at Northeastern Maine EMS and Darin McGaw at the Washington County Community College (WCCC) to establish WCCC as a test site.
    - Staff is working with Northern Maine Community College (NMCC) in Presque Isle to iron out some issues about their status as a CBT site.

Roy Woods stated that he had been told that NMCC was not active as a test site. He also expressed concerns that there is only one test site in Aroostook County. Drexell stated that the original intent of test site placement was to ensure that candidates did not have more than a one hour drive to a test center and that site placement would be re-evaluated after the system had been functioning for a period of time. Chief Woods expressed his concern that students should not have to drive an hour to a test site.

- EMD Committee - Peter Bragdon reported:
  - Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) went statewide on January 1, 2007.
  - The committee is attempting to fill the non-psap medical dispatch provider vacancy
  - The committee will be working on a unified protocol and training for the state, continuing education requirements and Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement.
  - There are currently 27 certified EMD services and 227 certified dispatchers with more applications waiting processing.

Chairman Leach reported that one nomination had been received for the vacant EMD committee and will be considered along with any other nominations received.

- Quality Improvement Committee – Steve Diaz reported that:
  - The QA Committee met last month and discussed two major topics, 12 lead and airway.
  - Completion of the Airway form remains a problem. The committee will be working on talking points to be included in the airway package. Steve will coordinate with Jay Bradshaw upon Jay's return
  - 12 lead documents are completed and recommendations from the HEART Committee will be brought to the Board next month. Steve sees that 12 lead is the standard of care for paramedics and that in the new protocols, 12 lead will be mandatory.
  - The committee is gathering data on Midazolam and Lorazepam and will report to the Medical Directions and Practices Board (MDPB) so that a decision may be made on what benzodiazepines will be included in protocol. Steve discussed the pros and cons of each medication.
- b. Investigation Committee Action Items - Dawn Kinney reviewed the cases included in the December 21, 2006 Investigations Meetings.

**Motion: To ratify the minutes of the December 21, 2006 Investigations Committee meeting (Ashby;Woods) Unanimous**

- c. Legislature/Budget updates – Drexell White reported that three bills have been submitted for consideration:
  - The EMS bill concerning regions, testing and disciplinary actions awaits a primary sponsor. Jay Bradshaw is attempting to contact Representative Sykes to be the bill's primary sponsor.
  - The EMD bill is being sponsored by Representative Peter Rines of Wiscasset.
  - The final bill submitted through the Department of Public Safety seeks to reinstate criminal background checks for renewal applicants.
    - Fire/EMS day in the Hall of Flags – The date for the Fire/EMS day at the Hall of Flags was changed from January 18<sup>th</sup> to January 22<sup>nd</sup> because the legislature was scheduled to be away from Augusta on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
    - LR 1800 – The Board discussed LR 1800 – An Act to Preserve the Regional Emergency Medical Services System in Maine. Language for the proposed legislation was developed at a regional level; Donnie Carroll provided the Board with background about the proposed legislation.

Extensive discussion followed that included concerns by Board members about the intent of the legislation, fragmentation of the EMS system and the perception of the system by the legislature if the legislation is presented before committee and there is not a unified voice from the Board and the regions.

Chairman Leach asked that the Board's EMSSTAR subcommittee meet with regional staff to further research and discuss this issue in an attempt to reach consensus on an approach for moving forward in a form that can be universally supported. Chair-Elect Werts will meet with participants after the Board meeting in order to schedule a meeting in the near future.

Laura Yustak Smith indicated that the proposed legislation is not a departmental bill and that the AG's office would not become involved unless it became so. She did express concerns that there may be anti-trust issues involved.

iii. Other – None

d. Other - None

(Note: Dr. DiPietrantonio left the meeting at 10:35 a.m.)

4. Public Comments – Rick Petrie requested clarification about the public comment section and whether each section of the agenda has a public comment section.

Laura Yustak Smith discussed how other boards operated. Usually, boards conduct their business with other attendees speaking only if the board had a specific question for one of the (non-board) attendees, but that the closeness of the EMS system has fostered a more informal atmosphere.

The public comment section came about as a way to designate a specific time in the agenda when public concerns could be brought to the board and noted for later discussion and action, and as a way to focus the Board on the agenda without interruption.

Rick Petrie also brought up a concern that information discussed at the Board meetings is not always distributed far enough in advance so regional staff can discuss items of interest with the region's board representative. There was general discussion about the need to provide information to the Board prior to the meeting with being flexible to allow time sensitive topics to be brought before the board without prior distribution.

Points gleaned from the discussion were:

- The chair will request that staff move the "Public Comment" item to the top of the agenda;
- Staff should make every effort to ensure that materials are distributed in advance of the meeting and that minutes are posted on the website.
- Encourage the EMS community to contact their representative if there are issues to be brought before the Board.
- Guests commenting "during the "Public Comments" section of the agenda should be informed that their comments will be noted and - unless it is a matter that can be easily and immediately resolved – scheduled for discussion/action at a later date.

5. Old Business

a. Board Bylaws - The Board reviewed the draft By Laws document.

Bob Ashby stated that his term had expired and it was almost two years before he was re-appointed. He asked if the By Laws could address such a situation. Laura Yustak Smith indicated that By Laws couldn't govern something controlled by the Governor's office. She believes that a person's term continues after expiration until the person or another person is appointed.

Consensus was to echo the applicable state law in the By Laws.

**Motion: To adopt the proposed By Laws as amended to include language that will echo state law concerning re-appointment (Beals; Conley) Unanimous**

Staff will email a copy of the final By Laws once necessary changes have been made.

The Board also reviewed the draft Code of Conduct.

Penny Kneeland asked if it was necessary that Board members identify themselves each time they speak. The chair explained that the wording was included primarily in cases when the Board is involved in an adjudicatory hearing and it is important to be able to identify each Board member when preparing a transcript.

**Motion: To adopt the Maine EMS Board Code of Conduct and Ethics as presented (Ashby; Cassidy) Unanimous**

**b. Report from Meeting with KVCC on Admissions Policies**

Rick Petrie gave an overview of the document presented that included 12/21/06 meeting minutes held amongst Bruce Davis, Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC); Rick Petrie, Kennebec Valley EMS (KVEMS); and Bill Zito, Mid-Coast EMS (MCEMS) to develop a memorandum of understanding. The memorandum establishes that a student who has not met Maine EMS prerequisites for a course leading to licensure may audit a course, but that it will not be considered a course leading to licensure. The memorandum will be signed by the student and by the representative of the sponsoring agency.

Board members discussed the wording of the memorandum and how best to incorporate it or a similar document into the system.

**Motion: To include language concerning course prerequisites in the pending student handbook, including a signoff for all acknowledgments required (Woods; Cassidy) Unanimous**

**To amend the previous motion to include that D. Kinney of the Maine EMS staff work with the regional coordinators to develop the student handbook within the next year and that as an interim measure, staff develop and distribute a form sufficient to meet the needs of the Maine EMS system regarding course prerequisites (Woods; Cassidy) Unanimous**

**6. Staff Reports**

**a. Maine EMS**

- MEMSRR update – Ben distributed the latest data to the Board and reported that 4 new services have started as of the beginning of 2007. To date, twenty services (thirty bases) are using MEMSRR.
- Inspection Update – Dawn reported that the demands caused by staffing shortages continue to hamper inspections. With the addition of a new licensing agent on board, all of the 2006 inspections should be completed by the end of January 2007.
- Other.
  1. Staff Addition – Drexell reported that Alan Leo has been hired as the new Licensing Agent at Maine EMS. Alan is the director of Thomaston Ambulance Service and is the Vice President of the Mid-Coast EMS Council.
  2. Journal of Maine EMS – Drexell reported that Jay Bradshaw will be meeting on January 4th with a possible vendor to publish the Journal of Maine EMS.

- b. Medical Director Report - Steve Diaz outlined a situation in Libya where a physician and nurses have been sentenced to death for allegedly infecting children with the HIV virus. Independent investigators throughout the world have determined that the cause of the infections were from faulty infection control practices by the hospital, not acts of the convicted health care providers. He read a letter he had composed (supporting the physician and nurses) that will be sent to Maine's congressional delegation on behalf of the MDPB and asked if the Board would endorse the letter as well.

**Motion: That the Maine EMS Board endorse the MDPB's letter in support of the convicted health care workers in Libya (Azzara; Doughty) Unanimous**

Dr. Diaz continued his MDPB report:

- Blue and Gold sections of the protocols have been reviewed
- The MDPB will put out an advisory to providers that Phenergan (Promethazine) must be diluted and slowly administered to prevent venous thrombosis and irritation.
- Dr. Busco, a Bangor physician would like to develop a Paramedic team in Bangor to work with advanced protocols and report back to the MDPB on the impact of a given protocol on the system. Dr. Diaz endorses the idea with the caveat that additional work such as Dr. Busco's proposed project needs to be supported and driven by other than Maine EMS, due to the current Maine EMS workload.
- Dr. Busco is finishing up the online medical control training module
- Dr. Diaz presented the Board's PIFT implementation dates and deadlines to the MDPB
- Feedback has been received on the CPAP project, which is going well. Dan Batsie presented data that initially indicates that no harm is being done.
- The MDPB discussed the RESCUE POD, but took no action and does not recommend its use.
- Circulated device language to the MDPB for ultimate inclusion in the protocols and PIFT program
- Will discuss interfacility and disaster medicine blood product administration at the next meeting.

7. Other -

- a. Wayne Werts asked about the status of the Board member handbooks. He was informed that Carol Pillsbury is working on them and has solicited topics from Board members for inclusion in the handbook.
- b. Drexell reminded the Board about the NREMT Paramedic Test Presentation on January 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in Florian Hall.
- c. Staff asked if Laura Yustak Smith should plan on presenting another board education setting. Consensus was to have Laura prepare training for the next meeting and to extend the meeting to 3:00 p.m.
- d. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7, 2007, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.